

Entitled to fight...

Mehbooba Mufti and her daughter Iltija Mufti have been booked for allegedly assaulting a police officer during PDP's protest against abrogation of Article 370 on Tuesday.

A case under sections 132, 121 and 191(2) BNS has been registered against Mehbooba and Iltija for the alleged assault during the protest for restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's special status.On Friday, Iltija, who was summoned to the Kothibagh police station for questioning, while addressing the media after nearly two hours of questioning, said she told the police that she is happy to cooperate with whatever they want to know.

"If an inquiry happens against me, I am willing to cooperate with them, but I am not the first girl or the last Kashmiri whom the police have summoned. I am here to fight for every Kashmiri. This is not my personal fight," she said.The PDP leader said her protest was "not illegal".

"Talking about Article 370 is my legal right. As an Indian citizen, I am entitled to fight peacefully, to wage a peaceful battle for the restoration of Article 370. And I want to tell the Indian government that what I am doing is not illegal," she said.She will keep fighting for the rights of every single Jammu and Kashmir resident, she added.

AEE suspended, EE's...

and ordered a high-level inquiry into the alleged negligence in restoring the Chak Methayani-Panglar-Kotecharwal road after reports surfaced that a 17-year-old girl lost her life while being transported to hospital due to the blocked road. According to an official order issued by the Office of the District Development Commissioner, the action followed the circulation of a social media video alleging that the teenage girl died because the PMGSY road remained closed, delaying her transportation to a medical facility. The order stated that while the Executive Engineer, PMGSY Division Rajouri, had informed through an official WhatsApp group that the road had been restored and was trafficable, a verification report submitted by the Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC), Koteranka, presented a different picture. As per the ADC's report, the girl had been suffering from an illness for about a month and had earlier received treatment at GMC Jammu before being discharged. When her condition worsened again, she was being shifted to GMC Rajouri. However, the Chak Methayani-Panglar-Kotecharwal road was blocked due to landslides, leaving the ambulance stranded for nearly two to three hours. The report further stated that local residents manually cleared part of the landslide to allow the vehicle to pass, but the patient's condition deteriorated during the delay, and she eventually died while being taken to GMC Rajouri. The inquiry report also noted that the road remained in a poor and non-trafficable condition due to landslides and damaged stretches, severely affecting transportation of patients, food supplies and fertilizers. It additionally pointed out that emergency ambulance services, including 108 and 102, were not functioning effectively in the affected villages of Narla, Bamble, Kotecharwal and Panglar. Taking serious note of the findings, the DDC observed that despite repeated directions from the Government of Jammu and Kashmir and the district administration for immediate restoration of roads damaged by recent rains, the road remained unattended, indicating prima facie negligence and non-compliance with official instructions. Pending the inquiry, the Assistant Executive Engineer, PMGSY Sub Division Kalakote, who was in charge of the road project, has been placed under suspension with immediate effect. During the suspension period, the officer will remain attached to the office of the Additional Deputy Commissioner, Koteranka. The order also directs the Executive Engineer, PMGSY Division Rajouri, to explain why disciplinary proceedings should not be initiated against him for allegedly misreporting the status of the road and failing to ensure its timely restoration. The salary of the Executive Engineer has also been withheld until further orders. In addition, the District Development Commissioner has directed the Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC), Rajouri, to conduct an in-depth inquiry into the matter and submit a comprehensive report to the district administration within seven days.The order has been circulated to the Financial Commissioner (Additional Chief Secretary), Public Works (R&B) Department, Chief Engineer PMGSY Jammu, Superintending Engineer PMGSY Jammu, Executive Engineer PMGSY Rajouri, ADC Koteranka and other concerned officers for immediate compliance and necessary action.

SUV evades security...

Police personnel deployed at the Chanderkote security checkpoint signalled the vehicle to stop, but the driver sped away, they said.

Officials said police fired three rounds of fire at the fleeing vehicle in an attempt to intercept it, but it continued towards the Nashri area, prompting a massive search operation involving the district police, the CRPF and the Army."The district police have seized the suspicious Scorpio near Dalwas, and further investigation is underway. Detailed information will be shared after the investigation progresses," Senior Superintendent of Police, Ramban, Arun Gupta, said.Security forces have intensified searches in the area, while investigators are probing the circumstances under which the vehicle evaded the security checkpoint and the motive behind the incident, officials said.

Another batch of 926...

pilgrimage has risen to 1,44,439, officials said. The 57-day annual pilgrimage to the holy cave shrine is scheduled to conclude on August 28.

CM Omar lays...

Affairs Javed Ahmed Rana, MLA Udhampur West Pawan Kumar Gupta, MLA Reasi Kuldeep Raj Dubey, Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister Dheeraj Gupta, Commissioner Secretary, Housing & Urban Development, Mandeep Kaur, Deputy Commissioner Udhampur Minga Sherpa, senior officers from the civil administration and the Jal Shakti Department, and a large gathering of local residents were present on the occasion.

The Chief Minister received a warm welcome on his arrival at Riwayat Hall, Udhampur.Addressing the gathering, the Chief Minister reaffirmed the government's commitment to ensuring the availability of safe, adequate, sustainable and quality drinking water to every citizen. He emphasised that water conservation is a shared responsibility and urged people to use drinking water judiciously while avoiding its wastage.

Highlighting the importance of the Udhampur water supply project, he said it marks a significant step towards strengthening the town's water infrastructure and improving the quality of life of its residents through assured access to safe drinking water.The Chief Minister also called upon the public to adopt the 'Catch the Rain' campaign and promote rainwater harvesting for gardening, agriculture and other non-potable uses. He stressed the need to preserve water resources and construct check dams to enhance water conservation and groundwater recharge.

Reiterating his government's commitment to inclusive development, the Chief Minister assured the people and their elected representatives that all genuine public demands would be examined and addressed on priority.Speaking on the occasion, Minister for Jal Shakti Javed Ahmed Rana congratulated the people of Udhampur and Reasi on the commencement of the two projects and appreciated the efforts of all stakeholders in bringing them to fruition.

MLA Udhampur West Pawan Kumar Gupta and MLA Reasi Kuldeep Raj Dubey also addressed the gathering and thanked the Chief Minister for sanctioning the projects and laying their foundation stones.Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today inaugurated the upgraded Residency Road-High Street in Jammu, a landmark urban infrastructure project executed by Jammu Smart City Limited (JSCL) under the Smart City Mission at a cost of Rs9.18 crore.

The project has transformed nearly 1.2 kilometres of the Residency Road-High Street corridor, covering the stretches from Raghunathji Mandir to CM House, Vivekanand Chowk to Raghunath Mandir Chowk, and Vir Marg Chowk to Vivekanand Chowk.As part of the upgradation, an underground communication corridor has been constructed and communication cables have been shifted underground to streamline utility infrastructure and enhance the area's visual appeal. The project also includes the development of new paver-block footpaths, a bituminous concrete road surface and RCC drains, significantly improving civic infrastructure along the corridor.

The upgraded corridor is expected to enhance pedestrian convenience, improve traffic movement and utility management, and contribute to a cleaner, more organised urban environment while lending a renewed aesthetic character to one of Jammu city's key commercial and civic corridors.MLA Jammu East Yudhvir Sethi, Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister Dheeraj Gupta, Commissioner Secretary, Housing & Urban Development Department, Mandeep Kaur, Chief Executive Officer, Jammu Smart City Limited, Devansh Yadav, and other senior officers were present on the occasion.

PM hosts MPs...

elected in recent times. Modi said this during a breakfast meeting with over 40 MPs from NDA constituents Nationalist Nationalist Citizens Party

of India (NCPI), Shiv Sena, Republican Party of India (Athawale), Rashtriya Lok Morcha, AIADMK and UPPL.

While 20 Lok Sabha members had left the TMC and joined the little-known NCPI in June, as many as six Shiv Sena (UBT) MPs deserted that party and joined the Shiv Sena, led by Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, taking Shiv Sena's numbers to 13 in the Lower House.The NCPI has joined the NDA and the Shiv Sena continues to be a constituent of the ruling alliance.

The Muslim MPs of the NCPI - Khalilur Rahaman, Yusuf Pathan and Abu Taher Khan - who skipped the NDA parliamentary party meeting 'Mangal Milan' twice also attended the breakfast meeting. They had separately met Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday.

Those who attended the breakfast meeting with the prime minister included RPI (Athawale) chief and Union minister Ramdas Athawale, Rashtriya Lok Morcha president and Rajya Sabha member Upendra Kushwaha, AIADMK leader M Thambi Durai, who is a Rajya Sabha member, and UPPL chief and Rajya Sabha member Pramod Boro.

Union Health Minister JP Nadda and BJP president Nitin Nabin were also present at the breakfast, which was a vegetarian affair along with desserts like payosh (kheer).NCPI MP Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar said they were "overwhelmed" seeing the prime minister's knowledge, the way he treated them.

"The prime minister said those who are with the NDA for the last 20 years or even one year are all family members. He said we will work hard for the development of West Bengal and the eight northeastern states. We all will work together. This is a very good message he has given to us, we all will work together," she told reporters at the Parliament House complex.

Shiv Sena Rajya Sabha member Jyoti Waghmare said Modi emphasised on smooth functioning of Parliament and expressed concern over the repeated disruptions by the opposition protests."The prime minister said due to the disruption in Parliament, the country could not listen to the talented and new MPs. He said the country's issues should be discussed in Parliament," he said.

NCPI leader Sudip Bandyopadhyay said the prime minister asked the MPs to do yoga regularly for maintaining good health."The PM asked who amongst us do yoga. He asked us to get a health checkup done every week. He spoke about development of eastern and Northeastern region," he said.

Another NCPI MP Satabdi Roy said the prime minister welcomed all of them and interacted with each of the MPs present at the breakfast."The prime minister emphasised what needs to be done and spoke how MPs can contribute effectively to nation-building," he said.Roy said Modi advised that those who crossed the age of 40 should practice yoga regularly and health check-up every year.

Modi is also learnt to have told told the MPs that they should not worry about their needs for the development of their respective constituencies."I am with you. The NDA is a family. We stand with our constituent parties," he is learnt to have told the MPs.Modi also reportedly said that he stood not only with the NDA members but with every MP.

On Wednesday, he had hosted a breakfast meeting with 37 BJP MPs, including the BJP president and some AAP leaders who had joined the party.During that meeting too, he had stressed that Parliament must function smoothly and without any disruption, besides sharing his experience in public life and offered guidance on how seriously MPs should take Parliament.

Since the Monsoon session began on July 20, Lok Sabha proceedings have been repeatedly disrupted by opposition protests. Six bills have been passed without discussion amid din.The opposition parties initially protested over the NEET paper leaks and alleged theft of donations at the Ayodhya Ram temple. They later pressed for a discussion on police action against students protesting over the NEET paper leak and also demanded the presence of Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah and their statements.

Meanwhile, the government is making a fresh attempt for passage of a Constitution Amendment Bill to implement 33 per cent reservation for women in legislatures in 2029 and redraw the Lok Sabha constituencies to increase its numbers to 816 in the ongoing monsoon session by reaching out to principal opposition party Congress and NDA allies, nearly four months after a similar effort failed due to lack of numbers.

Last time, the Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill fell short of the constitutionally mandated two-thirds majority in Lok Sabha, with 298 members voting in favour against 230 opposing it.The government's numbers have since improved marginally. The NDA's strength in Lok Sabha now stands at 299 following the merger of seven Shiv Sena (UBT) MPs with the Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena.

Among the 20 NCPI MPs, three Muslim law makers remained non-committal about their allegiance towards NDA. However, in the eventuality of all 20 voting in favour of the bill, the government has assured the support of 319 votes.But it is still well short of the 360 votes required to pass a constitutional amendment based on the current effective strength of the House.

Looms of Ladakh defends...

Pashmina sector has been carried out in accordance with the law and under the oversight of statutory authorities.The clarification comes in response to a recent communication sent by the Union Territory Administration of Ladakh to the Union Ministry of Home Affairs alleging irregularities in the cooperative's registration and functioning.

"Looms of Ladakh Women Cooperative Ltd was established as a democratically governed, women-owned producer institution to enable Ladakh's Pashmina herders and artisans to participate in higher-value activities while retaining ownership and decision-making within local communities.

"Over the past decade, it has evolved into one of Ladakh's most respected women-led institutions, supported by NABARD and other development partners, progressing from grant support to institutional credit-an achievement that relatively few grassroots producer organisations attain," the Looms of Ladakh said in a statement. Citing a letter by the General Administration Department of Ladakh to the Ministry of Home Affairs, officials said the society was registered when IAS officer Prasanna Ramaswamy was serving as Registrar of Cooperative Societies (RCS). The records indicate that the officer and his spouse, Abhilasha Bahuguna, were listed as co-founder members, the officials said, adding that since the cooperative's Articles of Association designated the deputy commissioner, Leh, as its ex officio chairman, Ramaswamy also became its chairman while serving as the Leh DC (2015-2017). The Ladakh Administration noted that departmental records do not indicate prior approval from the competent authority for such an association.The Looms of Ladakh said the cooperative's work has received recognition at the national and international levels. It was highlighted by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi during Mann Ki Baat, bringing national attention to the efforts of Ladakhi women in preserving and promoting authentic Pashmina. "Its pro bono founder, Abhilasha Bahuguna, who lived, worked, and travelled with us in our homes in the past decade, and the Cooperative have also been recognised through a campaign of the United Nations Office of Partnerships, including digital displays at Times Square, New York, and the United Nations Headquarters, for advancing women-led sustainable development and ethical fashion," it said. It said the cooperative has consistently functioned as a democratic institution governed by its members."Since its registration, it has successfully conducted three elections to its management positions, reflecting its commitment to transparency and accountability. Its governance model has been studied by senior NABARD officials and by officers of the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA) during their winter study tour in January 2026," it said. In its letter to MHA, the officials said the administration also raised concerns over the society's application for registration of "Ladakh Pashmina Textiles" as a Geographical Indication (GI) and said the departmental records do not show that the competent authority approved the application, despite a representation claiming approval from the Director of Industries.

It also referred to an examination report issued by the GI Registry on September 11, 2025, which recommended a broader institutional framework and identified deficiencies requiring rectification before further processing.However, the Looms of Ladakh said the registration of "Ladakh Pashmina" in Class 24 and Class 25 marked a historic milestone with the extension of Geographical Indication protection beyond raw fibre (Class 22) to textiles and apparel.

"The application process was initiated through the Ministry of Textiles with the support of the Handloom Export Promotion Council (HEPC), which engaged the Human Welfare Association, Varanasi, to undertake the registration process before the GI Registry."The Cooperative fulfilled the eligibility requirements by furnishing the requisite affidavit, technical documentation and evidence of traditional weaving practices before the statutory authorities and expert committee," it said in its counter to the administration's report.

J&K Govt reconstitutes...

dated August 7, 2026, issued by the General Administration Department (GAD), the new order supersedes Government Order No. 1262-JK(GAD) of 2022 dated October 19, 2022.The reconstituted UT PMG will monitor infrastructure and investment projects with a threshold cost of ₹5 crore and above, in accordance with the framework and operational guidelines of the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Government of India. The committee will be chaired by the Chief Secretary, Jammu and Kashmir, and comprises Administrative Secretaries of key departments, including Jal Shakti, Rural Development, Agriculture

Production, Finance, Public Works, Information Technology, Housing and Urban Development, General Administration, Health and Medical Education, Planning, Development and Monitoring, Social Welfare, Industries and Commerce, School Education and Higher Education.The Government has also provided for the co-option of any other Administrative Secretary or District Development Commissioner as a member whenever required.

The Terms of Reference (ToRs) of the UT PMG include reviewing and monitoring issues relating to major projects, schemes and programmes uploaded on the PMG Portal; facilitating resolution of inter-departmental and project-specific bottlenecks; coordinating with Central Ministries, DPIIT, Administrative Departments, District Administrations and project proponents; periodically reviewing issue resolution; recommending measures to remove systemic, procedural and policy-related hurdles; and approving periodic reports on project implementation and progress.

The committee has also been empowered to co-opt officers, domain experts or other stakeholders whenever necessary for the effective discharge of its responsibilities.The Government has designated the Planning, Development and Monitoring Department (PD&MD) as the Nodal Department for the coordination, implementation and operationalisation of the UT PMG Portal. As the nodal agency, the department will coordinate with DPIIT and other stakeholders, monitor projects registered on the PMG Portal, facilitate resolution of implementation issues, convene meetings of the UT PMG, ensure follow-up of decisions, manage and maintain the PMG Portal and reporting mechanisms, and undertake all other functions necessary for the effective implementation of the project monitoring framework.The move is aimed at strengthening institutional coordination, expediting project execution, resolving implementation bottlenecks in a time-bound manner and improving the overall pace of infrastructure development and investment in Jammu and Kashmir.

Nine office-bearers...

permission from the District Administration," BJP's Anatnag district president Rakesh Koul said in an order. He said the district unit has taken serious note of "objectionable and derogatory remarks" allegedly made against women during the rally."Such conduct is wholly unacceptable and is against the values, discipline, dignity, and principles of the Bharatiya Janata Party," he said.Koul said the party has decided to initiate strict disciplinary action against those found responsible for organising and participating in the unauthorised rally. "In view of the above and pending further inquiry, the following office bearers are hereby removed from all their party posts and responsibilities with immediate effect and their primary membership of the Bharatiya Janata Party is suspended until further orders," he said. The action has been taken against Nisar Ahmad Bhat, district general secretary; Khursheed Ahmad Sofi, district secretary; Aabida Rafiq, district secretary; Irshad Ahmad Malik, constituency president, Shangus (Anantnag East); Mohammad Maqbool Ganie, former district vice president; Waheed Ahmad Itoo, constituency president, Pahalagam; Nisar Ahmad Hakeem, district secretary; Feroz Ahmad Hajam, district secretary, Kisan Morcha, and Sabrooz Akhter, district secretary, Mahila Morcha. Koul also said Alveer Ahmad Dar and Fancy Akhter are not associated with the Anantnag district unit in any capacity and do not hold any organisational post or responsibility.Political parties in the Valley had lashed out at the BJP after purported videos of the said rally went viral on social media.Jammu and Kashmir Minister Sakina Itoo on Thursday said slogans raised during the BJP rally were "derogatory" and an "insult" to mothers and sisters in the Valley. She demanded registration of an FIR against those responsible.

LG greets weavers...

stressed the need for collective efforts to safeguard India's handloom legacy while ensuring the economic empowerment and welfare of artisans whose craftsmanship continues to sustain the nation's traditional handloom sector. He reiterated that the handloom industry is not only an important source of livelihood for thousands of families but also a symbol of India's cultural richness and artistic excellence. The LG called upon people to support local weavers and encourage the preservation and promotion of indigenous handloom products.The message comes as National Handloom Day is being observed across the country to honour the contribution of weavers and promote awareness about the importance of the handloom sector in India's cultural and economic landscape.

Fruit trucks, fuel...

Peera in Ramban district during his journey from Jammu to Srinagar, Abdullah said that the government was mindful of the ongoing fruit season and the need to ensure that growers' produce reached markets without delay.

"I am aware that this is the fruit season. People want their produce to reach the markets before it perishes. At the same time, the Amarnath Yatra is also underway, which has resulted in certain restrictions on the highway. Nevertheless, fruit-laden trucks are being given priority. Petroleum tankers coming from Jammu are also being accorded priority to ensure that there is no shortage of essential supplies," he said. The chief minister said there was no alternative to the Jammu-Srinagar highway and appealed to commuters to remain patient whenever traffic was temporarily halted because of rain-triggered landslides or road restoration works.He said the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), Jammu and Kashmir Police, Traffic Police and the civil administration were making sustained efforts to maintain traffic flow and reopen the road at the earliest whenever disruptions occurred. Abdullah said he had reviewed the condition of the highway in Udhampur and Ramban districts, held meetings with NHAI officials and visited affected stretches to assess the situation on the ground.Referring to the ongoing Amarnath Yatra, he said the pilgrimage was progressing smoothly with a large number of devotees having visited the holy cave shrine so far. "It is encouraging that a large number of pilgrims have visited the holy cave shrine this year and all of them have returned safely so far. We hope that even more pilgrims will come and complete their pilgrimage successfully," he said.Earlier, the chief minister made a brief halt at the famous Khajura Dhaba at Peera, where he had a traditional lunch comprising rajma, rice, desi ghee and anardana chutney before resuming his journey to Srinagar. Deputy Commissioner Ramban Mohammad Alyas Khan, Senior Superintendent of Police Arun Gupta and other district officials were present during his halt.Mocking police allegations that PDP leader Iltija Mufti bit an officer during a protest, Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Friday dismissed an FIR against her as a "fixed match" designed to rebuild the party's credibility and asked if she was a "five-year-old child who can bite someone". Abdullah launched the blunt attack in response to PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti's accusation that her party members, including her daughter Iltija, were being targeted by police for advocating the restoration of Article 370."Don't ask me for commentary on this fixed match," Abdullah told reporters."Now tell me, is Iltija Mufti a five-year-old child who can bite someone? Even a five-year-old knows that you don't bite people in this manner." This unnecessary attempt to fool the public is nothing but an effort to make people forget about the 'woh banta hai' statement. Unfortunately, this keeps happening with the PDP," he said.Abdullah alleged that the controversy was engineered to divert public attention from Mehbooba's recent "woh banta hai" remark at a Delhi protest in reference to security forces using pellet guns in Kashmir, which sparked fierce backlash after opponents accused her of rationalising violence in the region. Though Mehbooba later issued an unconditional apology clarifying that she meant to say "bahana banta hai" (an excuse is made), Abdullah insisted the damage to her party's standing was already done."After the 'woh banta hai' statement, their image has become so weak," Abdullah said.

"This party did not rise on its own; it was created by the agencies. Whenever their image becomes weak, attempts are made by the agencies to restore their credibility. This unnecessary attempt to fool the public is nothing but an effort to make people forget," he said.Police maintain that Iltija assaulted an official during the August 5 protest, including biting him.

The PDP has fiercely rejected the charge, labelling the case a politically motivated crackdown aimed at suppressing demands for the return of Jammu and Kashmir's special status, which was revoked by the Centre in August 2019.Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday supported Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat's remark that "Gen Z grievances are genuine and protesting doesn't make them anti-national". Referring to Mohan Bhagwat's remark, the chief minister said it was encouraging that a distinction was made between opposing the government and acting against the country."The good thing is that Mohan Bhagwat ji has acknowledged this distinction. Opposing the government is not the same as opposing the country. In fact, opposing the

government is often beneficial for the nation because it helps correct mistakes wherever they occur," he said. On Thursday while addressing a gathering of around 2,000 Gen Z and Gen Alpha members at India's International Movement to Unite Nations (IIMUN) 15th anniversary event in Mumbai, Bhagwat said, "If Gen Z members are agitating, they are not anti-national; they are our people. It is our next generation. You need a dialogue and rapport with them." Abdullah urged authorities to stop action against students who participated in the agitation over alleged irregularities in the NEET examination and said protesting against the government should not be equated with opposing the nation.Abdullah said the agitation helped ensure accountability, expressing hope that it would lead to improvements in the conduct of future examinations. Expressing concern over reports of action against the protesters, Abdullah said students were allegedly being manhandled, booked in criminal cases and harassed on social media. In some instances, police reportedly summoned their relatives. "I believe this entire course of action should stop," he said. The Cockroach Janta Party's (CJP) "Sansad Chalo" protest march turned violent in New Delhi on July 20. Police said more than 118 police personnel, including several senior officers, were injured and around 70 protesters 60 protesters also sustained injuries in the scuffle. On July 25, 2026, the CJP called off its 36-day youth-led protest at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi. The agitation ended immediately after Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan resigned and the government agreed to key demands, including compensation for affected families and the withdrawal of FIRs against protesters. Referring to the protests in Jharkhand, Abdullah said he hoped Chief Minister Hemant Soren would engage with the protesting students instead of ignoring their demands."He should call them, hold talks with them, and if anything wrong has actually happened, take action against those responsible, just as we did here," Abdullah said. He urged the Jharkhand government to engage with the protesting students and address their grievances.

The protest against the alleged irregularities in recruitment exams in Jharkhand entered its 14th day on Friday with two student unions announcing that they would hold a march to the state assembly, which is in session, during the day.The demonstrators have been demanding cancellation of the 14th Jharkhand PSC Civil Services Examination and an independent probe into the alleged irregularities in the recruitment test either by the CBI or by a panel of retired high court judges from outside the state. They also stressed comprehensive reforms in the Jharkhand Public Service Commission (JPSC) and the Jharkhand Staff Selection Commission (JSSC).Responding to a question on recent political developments involving the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), Omar dismissed suggestions of a "fixed match", alleging that attempts were being made to revive the party's credibility. "This party did not emerge on its own. Agencies created it. Whenever its image weakens, agencies make efforts to restore its credibility," he alleged, while also rejecting speculation surrounding PDP leader Iltija Mufti.

He took a dig at Iltiji's biting incident and said she is not a child.During the Article 370 demonstration this week, police claimed that Iltija physically assaulted a police officer while he was discharging his duties."She is further alleged to have grabbed the officer and bitten his forearm, causing a bleeding bite injury," they said. Police have summoned her for 'assault' on the cop.

J&K braces for...

will witness one or two spells of light to moderate rain and thundershowers at many places. Brief intense showers are also expected at a few places during this period. The MeT has predicted few spells of light to moderate rain and thundershowers at most places between August 9 and 11.It has specifically warned of heavy to very heavy rainfall at a few districts of Jammu division. Meanwhile, brief intense heavy showers are likely at a few districts of Kashmir division.From August 12 to 17, the weather department said there is a possibility of light rain and thundershower at many places, with brief intense showers at a few places. The department has issued an advisory for August 9 to 11, citing the possibility of heavy to very heavy rain and brief intense heavy showers at a few districts. "Torrential rain and brief intense heavy showers may generate flashfloods and landslides at vulnerable places and cause water logging in low lying areas," the MeT said.People have been advised to stay away from nallahs, landslide-prone areas and other vulnerable spots, while authorities have been asked to remain alert.

High Court reallocates...

Districts Kupwara and Samba. Hon'ble Mr. Justice Rajesh Sekhri will oversee Districts Kishtwar and Ganderbal.Hon'ble Mr. Justice Mohammad Yousuf Wani has been allotted Districts Shopian and Poonch.Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sanjay Parihar has been assigned Districts Reasi and Kargil.Hon'ble Mr. Justice Shahzad Azeem will oversee Districts Ramban and Bandipora.The notification has been issued by the Registrar General of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh and is aimed at streamlining the administrative responsibilities of the judges across the Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.

PGTI's J&K Open will...

chief minister's advisor Nasir Aslam Wani said hosting the PGTI tournament is a big thing for the UT. "From the PGTI tournament, we felt that this course (RSGC) truly is the best course for a professional golfer. Hosting a PGTI tournament here is a matter of pride for us and a big milestone for our golf. PGTI, in my view, is for golf what BCCI is for cricket," he said.Wani said the government wants to host bigger golf tournaments. "We will make it an annual event. PGTI and this DP World tournament, this will happen every year. And for this, more golfers are coming, we will have to give it a little more boost. Whatever we will have to do to increase the prize money, like give sponsors, we will definitely do that. But, you must put this in your calendar: every year in the first week of August, this PGTI event will be held here," he said. The CM's advisor said the government will also set up a golf academy in J&K to promote the sport. "Our biggest desire is that there should be a golf academy here. We should not restrict it to only those players who can do it, who can afford it outside. We should open it for all, for school and college children, they should learn here. And I have full hope that it is going to happen. We will do a joint venture with the DP World, and this golf academy will definitely open here before the next tournament. This will be a world-class academy," he said. Wani also asserted that the government wants to make J&K the golf capital of the country."I would again request you that in the next year's calendar, give us one of the nine big tournaments that you give to the rest of the country so that we can place J&K as the golf capital of India and this RSGC as the crown of that golfing circuit," he added.

Continued on path...

have to lose courage," she added.She urged her party to remain unfazed and said the PDP will continue its struggle for the restoration of Article 370 abrogated by the Centre on August 5, 2019."If you have to save the real Jammu and Kashmir, its land and resources, then you have to remain steadfast. I am here now; I may not be here tomorrow. Whether I or Iltija are here or not, the PDP will continue its peaceful and democratic struggle for the restoration of Article 370," she said. Mehbooba said targeting the PDP was not something new."Our party was broken, and new parties were created. Those parties defended the abrogation of Article 370 in the country. The targeting of the PDP is still going on. Why was there no action against the National Conference or Congress or others? Talking about (Article) 370 has become a crime. Those who talk about (Article) 370 are branded criminals," she said. The PDP president expressed her gratitude to the party workers for turning up to protest on the evening of August 4 and the next day."I thank you all for showing the country's institutions that Article 370 and 35A live in the hearts of the people, no matter what," she said.The PDP was the only party that raised the voice on Article 370, while others only want restoration of statehood, she claimed. "There is no other issue than (Article) 370. Did the BJP not take out a rally? Did they not insult the women? But there is no FIR," she said, referring to the allegation that the BJP Anantnag unit raised derogatory slogans against Kashmiri women during a rally on August 5 to mark seven years since the abrogation of Article 370."The National Conference, Congress and Apni Party also took out protests, but they protested for statehood. PDP is the only party which protested for the resolution of the Kashmir issue along with (Article 370)," she said.On Iltija's summoning, the PDP president said her daughter did not have a weapon or a stone in her hands. "The way she was dealt with, she will respond to that. (But), a lady officer told a constable to drag her (Iltija) away. Should a man touch a girl? They are saying that she attacked the police. When you grab a girl here (by her collar), what will she do? Our big leaders should be ashamed."Rather than condemning that, they are singing different tunes because they do not want to talk about Article 370," Mehbooba added.